

March 7, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St NW
Washington DC, 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* disclosure pursuant to 47 c.f.r 1.4(e)(1) in CC Docket # 12-375

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On March 4, 2013,¹ the following individuals met with Angela Kronenberg from Commissioner Clyburn's Office and Michael Steffen from Chairman Genachowski's office: Corrine Yu, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Amalia Deloney, Center for Media Justice (participated by phone) Harold Feld and Clarissa Ramon, Public Knowledge, Lee Petro and Jennifer Oberhauen, Drinker, Biddle & Reath counsel for Martha Wright, *et al.* and Cheryl Leanza, Leadership Conference Education Fund.

The parties reported that support for prison phone rate reform remains strong at the local and state level, and that continued FCC leadership issue has (and continues to have) the salutary effect of mobilizing supporters at all levels of government. The parties urged the FCC to move as expeditiously as possible following the reply comment period to resolve this proceeding in a manner that would alleviate the unjust and unreasonable practices of the carriers.

In this regard, Public Knowledge noted that the Commission can prohibit all carriers from paying commissions pursuant to its broad powers under Sections 201 and 202. Such a prohibition no more treads on federalism or intrastate communications than the prohibition on exclusive contracts with landlords trammels on the rights of landlords, or the newspaper broadcast cross-ownership rule treads on the rights of newspapers. The prohibition lies entirely on the regulated licensee, and such an approach has been consistently upheld.

¹ Because the Federal Government was closed on March 6, 2013 due to weather, this *notice of oral ex parte* is being filed today, the second business day since the meeting.



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The parties apprised the FCC staff that none of the carriers have contacted any of them since the issuance of the NPRM. Nor have the carriers responded to invitations to engage in dialog from the Wright Petitioners addressed to counsel for Securus. The parties expressed their disappointment with this apparent lack of willingness by the carriers to engage.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Clarissa Ramon

Government Affairs Associate

PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE